THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 12th August 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI)) in the Chair.

I.—DISCUSSION *RE* QUESTION HOUR ON THE 13TH AUGUST 1954.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Tomorrow is the last day of the present sitting. I have about 250 questions ready with answers. I want to place them all for answer tomorrow. Since tomorrow is Friday, we may rise at 1 p.m. and meet in the afternoon at 3 p.m. I will not allow many supplementaries."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" I suggest that we take up all these at the next session."

MR. SPEAKER :—" If all the questions are postponed to the next session, then they may not see the light of day."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" One hour will not do for 250 questions."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We may probably meet in December again. Instead of one hour, I shall allow two hours for 250 questions. But if they should be postponed, let not the House blame either the Ministers or me later on for not placing the questions for answer before the House in time. I wish to know what the House feels on this matter."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Let the questions be taken up at the next session."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Supposing the House is prorogued."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" This question of prorogation has been hanging over us like the Damocle's sword and the Government always threaten us that they will prorogue the Assembly."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It depends on administrative convenience."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" Instead of allowing all the questions to lapse, it would be better if they are answered at least. In that view, I submit that the questions may be answered tomorrow so that we may know the answers at least."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" In case the Assembly is prorogued . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I cannot say that."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" If the Assembly is prorogued, the public will not have the benefit of all the answers. Let them be answered tomorrow. If they are answered, supplementaries should be allowed at least on important questions. That is my submission."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" What is important and what is unimportant should be left to the Chair to decide."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" We do not anticipate any prorogation unless exceptional circumstances crop up."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I may inform the House that we intend proroguing the House after the present sitting and having a new session in November or December next because we do not want the Governor's Address and the Finance Minister's speech to be discussed at the same time. So, when we begin a new session in November or December with the Governor's Address, the discussion on it will go on for some days and the same session may continue for the presentation of the Budget also in February. The Finance Minister's speech can be discussed then so that there will be no duplication of speeches."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" A minor submission, Sir. We are now faced with a peculiar situation. The Opposition is very keen on having all the questions answered on the floor of the House while the Government are anxious to have them postponed . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" They are not anxious."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" We shall have no objection to having a sitting on Monday so that we may have an opportunity to put supplementaries on important questions."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Hon. Members have booked their berths. I must look to the convenience of all Members."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" I am also looking to the convenience of Members. There is a strong feeling on the part of Members on our side that we must sit on Monday and that all the questions must be answered in the most effective way and not in a slipshod manner."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It would be all right for the hon. Member, who resides in the City, to say that we must sit on Monday or continue to sit thereafter indefinitely. But there are others who are anxious to go home."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" What is the *modus operandi* by which you judge the Member's convenience, Sir? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" Many of them came to me and said that they wanted to go. That is the *modus operandi*."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is it the District Board elections that make them go? "

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Answers are ready now. If the Government prorogue the Assembly, then it would be a repetition of giving notice, fresh notice of questions. It would

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enable the Government to say that the question has already been answered, if they are answered tomorrow, and then there will be no opportunity for us to put supplementary questions, even if we give fresh notice.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' The hon. Member can put the question in this way. ' Arising out of the answer given by the Minister on such and such date, what action has been taken in the matter? ' So the Member is not totally shut out from putting a question.''

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' Instead of that we can revive the question itself.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' Why not extend the question hour? ''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' I shall allow two hours.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' That is not enough.''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' The Ministers will have to go through all the answers and get ready with them because we do not know on which questions there will be supplementaries. We must have some consideration for the Ministers also. We cannot all of a sudden get ready with answers to 250 questions. Therefore, I submit that we may confine ourselves to 100 questions tomorrow.''

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Celebration of Republic Day on 26th January 1954.

* 1267 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM :' Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred by the Government in connexion with the celebration of Republic Day on 26th January 1954 in the City and in the districts?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' The expenditure incurred was Rs. 10,593–14–0 in Madras City and Rs. 1,108 in the districts.''

* 1268 *Q.*—SRI D. DASARATHAN : Will the Hon. the **Minister** for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount allotted for celebrating the Indian Republic Day in 1954; and

(*b*) what expenditure was actually incurred?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' (*a*) No specific amount was allotted for the Republic Day Celebrations, 1954.

'' (*b*) Rs. 11,701–14–0.''